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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

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BAC

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Total Farm Production, A Record

All farm production—crops, livestock and livestock products—is expected to be all-time high. Compared with the 1935-39 pre-war average, it is up 44 percent. Total crop volume is up 45 percent from pre-war; livestock 43 percent; total food production 41 percent. Population during the same period has gone up 17 percent.

Crops Close to 1948 Record Output

Estimates are down a little from a month ago for such crops as corn, cotton, wheat and potatoes and slightly improved for hay, rice, sorghum grain, buckwheat and some other crops. Total volume of crops ties with 1949 for second high and is close to the all-time record reached in '48. Big output indicated this year was accomplished despite weather that was generally less favorable than in other recent years.

Several Big Crops, Many Others Above Average

Big crops this year include hay, rice, cotton, soybeans, tobacco, grapes, hops and pecans. And a good many crops this year are above average.

Cotton Nearly 17 Million Bales

The nearly 17-million bale cotton crop is nearly 70 percent larger than last year and tops the 1940-49 average by nearly 5 million bales. October estimate is 16,931,000 compared with 17,291,000 in September.

Rice Crop Up a Fifth From Last Year

Rice crop estimated at 45 million bags (100-lb.) is 19 percent above year ago and tops 1940-49 average by 43 percent. Acreage in rice is up 21 percent from last year.

Soybeans Crop Near Record

Soybean production, estimated at 271 million bushels, is close to last year's record crop of 287 million bushels and compares with 179 million average. Soybean stocks on farms are estimated at 2.6 million bushels compared with 1.2 million last year and 2.9 million average.

Tobacco Tops Last Year's Big Crop

Tobacco crop, at 2,250 million pounds, is up slightly from a month ago. Compares with 2,032 million last year and 1,787 million average production. Estimated 1,412 million pounds of flue-cured compares with 1,257 million produced last year. Burley is estimated at 566 million pounds against 498 million pounds last year. Maryland tobacco, 43.4 million pounds compares with 40 million produced last year. Fire-cured, 61.4 million pounds if up from the 57.5 million produced last year.

Record Hay Supplies

With the record cut of 114 million tons of hay plus carryover of about 16 million tons, supplies per roughage-consuming animal unit are largest of record.

Pastures Better Than Average

Pastures are in better than average condition and promise good fall feed in most areas. They are particularly good in the North Central region. Range pastures improved last month in many sections, though they remain dry in most southern portions where supplemental feeding is general.

Potato Crops Below Average

Total Irish potato production is forecast at 337 million bushels, 10 million less than on September 1 and down a fifth from average. Last year's enormous crop was 439½ million. Sweetpotato crop of about 35 million bushels will be only about three-fifths of both last year and average. Acreage down nearly a third, yields also lower.

More Oranges, Less Grapefruit

Early and midseason oranges (1951-52 season) are forecast at 56.2 million boxes—4 percent above the 1950-51 season and 21 percent above average. Record large crop of Florida Valencias, 32.5 million boxes. Grapefruit production (exclusive of California summer crop) is forecast at 39.5 million boxes—12 percent below last season and 20 percent below average. Florida, with prospects for 35 million boxes, will produce most of the grapefruit this season.

Corn Crop 3.1 Billion Bushels

Corn crop now estimated at 3,105 million bushels is close to last year's 3,131 million bushels. 10-year average, 2,981 million.

Wheat Nearly the Same as Last Year

Wheat production is estimated at 994 million bushels, 3 percent smaller than last year's billion bushel crop. Winter wheat crop was less than last year; spring wheat, about a fourth more than both last year and average.

Estimates of Other Crops with Comparisons

Oats production 1,372 million bushels. Production last year, 1,465 million; average, 1,312 million.
Barley, 254.4 million bushels. Production last year, 301 million; average, 306.5 million.
Rye, 25.1 million bushels. Production last year, 23 million; average, 30.2 million.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Aug. 15 1951	Sept. 15 1951	Sept. 15 1951
Wheat, bu.dol.	2.05	2.07	2.41
Corn, bu.dol.	1.65	1.65	1.75
Peanuts, lb.ct.	10.8	11.0	13.1
Cotton, lb.ct.	34.60	33.73	33.85
Potatoes, bu.ct.	1.17	1.23	1.80
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	21.20	19.70	21.30
Beef cattle, 100 lb.dol.	29.10	29.50	19.80
Veal calves, 100 lb.dol.	32.60	32.80	22.10
Lambs, 100 lb.dol.	29.80	29.80	21.70
Butterfat, lb.ct.	1/ 72.0	1/ 68.8	76.7
Milk, whsle., 100 lb.dol.	1/ 4.54	1/2/ 4.47	4.79
Chickens, live, lb.ct.	26.0	25.2	31.3
Eggs, doz.ct.	1/ 48.3	1/ 49.1	52.8

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.

Buckwheat, 4 million bushels. Production last year, 4.7 million; average, 7 million.

Flaxseed, 32.3 million bushels. Production last year, 39.3 million; average, 37.2 million.

Sorghum grain, 164 million bushels. Production last year, 237.5 million; average 118.8 million.

Beans, (drv edible 100 lb. bag), 16.8 million bags. Production last year, 16.8 million; average, 18 million.

Peas (drv field, 100 lb. bag), 3.7 million. Production last year, 3 million; average, 5.9 million.

Peanuts, 1.7 billion pounds. Production last year, 2 billion; average, 2 billion pounds.

Sugarcane (sugar & seed), 6.5 million tons. Production last year, 6.9 million; average, 6 million.

Sugar beets, 10.7 million tons. Production last year, 13.5 million; average, 9.9 million.

Broomcorn, 36 thousand tons. Production last year, 26 thousand; average, 43 thousand.

Hops, 61.8 million pounds. Production last year, 58.3 million; average, 47.1 million.

Apples (Com'l crop), 117.5 million bushels. Production last year, 123.1 million bushels; average, 109 million.

Peaches, 70 million bushels. Production last year, 53.5 million; average, 71.2 million.

Pears, 32.3 million bushels. Production last year, 31.1 million; average 31 million.

Grapes, 3.2 million tons. Production last year, 2.7 million; average, 2.8 million.

Cherries (12 States), 232 thousand tons. Production last year, 242 thousand; average, 186 thousand.

Apricots (3 States), 177 thousand tons. Production last year, 215 thousand; average, 220 thousand tons.

Cranberries (5 States), 916 thousand barrels. Production last year, 984 thousand; average, 728 thousand barrels.

Pecans, 147 million tons. Production last year, 126 million; average, 124 million.

Grain Production Plus Carryover

This year's production of all grains plus carryover from last year will total about 194 million tons, only 4 percent less than last year's total. Production of food grains (wheat, rye, rice, and buckwheat) plus carryover will total about 45 million tons, nearly the same as the 46.5 million tons a year ago. Feed grains produced (corn, oats, barley, and sorghum grain) plus carryover will run to about 149 million tons. This is about 4 percent less than last year's 156 million tons, but is 28 percent above the 1937-41 average. In '47, feed grain production plus carryover was 109 million tons; 146 million tons in '48; and 157 million in '49.

More Animals to Be Fed

In terms of livestock to be fed, feed grain supplies, though large, are not in excess of needs. In fact, expansion of livestock is expected to reduce the feed grain carryover next year.

Milk Output Close to Last Year

The 9.5 billion pounds of milk produced on farms in September tops year ago by about 1 percent and is the second largest September production on record. The milk produced was equivalent to 2.04 pounds, or about 1 quart per person per day.

4 Billion Eggs in September

Hens laid 4 billion eggs in September, record for the month, 2 percent more than in September last year, and nearly a fourth above the 1940-49 average. Egg production first 9 months of this year was 47.3 billion eggs...year ago 47.6 billion...average 42.7 billion.

Egg, Chicken and Turkey Prices

Farmers averaged 55 cents a dozen for eggs in mid-September about 5 cents more than in August and nearly 15 cents more than in September a year ago. During the last half of the month, however, egg prices declined

from the seasonal high reached at mid-month. Live-weight chickens brought 25.2 cents pound compared with 26 cents in mid-August. Live turkeys averaged 36.3 cents pound; 33.5 cents, year earlier.

Farm and Wholesale Prices Lower; Retail Prices Steady

Weaker demand and generally ample supplies account for a downtrend in farm and wholesale prices. In late September, wholesale prices averaged 4 percent below the mid-March peak. Prices to farmers registered an even larger drop, moving down 7 percent from the February peak to mid-September. Lower prices for crops account for most of the decline in the index of prices received by farmers. Crop prices in mid-September were down 16 percent from February and averaged slightly lower than a year earlier. Prices of livestock products, on the other hand, are only a little below February and are 13 percent above a year ago. Retail prices have held steadier than wholesale prices. Prices paid by farmers for production and living goods have changed little. Same is true for retail prices paid by city people.

Business Activity Steady

Although demand has weakened in recent months it remains high compared with past years. With income rising, investment by business in plant and equipment at a high level and requirements for defense increasing, demand for most goods and services is expected to continue strong. But big price rises are less likely now because of larger supplies.

Gain in Assets

Total assets of American agriculture, as estimated in BAE's Balance Sheet of Agriculture, are valued at 143 billion dollars as of January 1, '51. This is 13 percent above a year earlier and higher than ever before. But if the physical assets are estimated at 1940 prices, the increase in total assets amounts to only 2 percent.

September Employment 61.6 Million

U. S. civilians at work in September totaled 61.6 million compared with 62.6 in August and 61.2 million in September year ago. Decline of a million from the number at work in August is seasonal, September being back-to-school month.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	September 1951
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	291
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	282
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	103
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 291
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	2/ 293
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	3/ 476
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	2/ 564
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Sept. 1950	Jan.-Sept. 1951
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	94.5	93.9
Eggs, (bil.).....	47.6	47.3
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	4/ 4575	4/ 4214
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 355	4/ 300
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	4/ 6572	4/ 7297
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	4/ 11934	4/ 12179
1/ Week ended nearest 15th of the month. 2/ August figure. 3/ October 1 adjusted for seasonal variation. 4/ Jan.-Aug. under Federal inspection.		